During the visit of the Sri Lankan Foreign Minister, who was the first foreign dignitary received by this Government, both sides agreed that steps would be taken to convene the Indo-SL Joint Commission later this year.

High Rate of Accidental Deaths in Delhi

33. SHRI O.P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of accidental deaths on the roads of Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta, Madras, Hyderabad, Kanpur and Bangalore during the last three years uptill Now;

(b) the reasons for high rate of accidental deaths in Delhi;

(c) the measures contemplated for lessening the burden on the roads in Delhi;

(d) the progress made with regard to introduction of alternative mode of transport in Delhi; and

(e) the number of persons killed by Redline/Blueline/DTC/other vehicles in Delhi in the last three years uptil now?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T. G. VENKATARAMAN): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Proper Maintenance of National Waterways

34. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Waterways are not being maintained properly; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI G. VENKATRMAN): (a) The National Waterways are being maintained and improved by the Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) in a phased manner depending on the availability of resources, physical capabilities and other limitations. Ongoing waterway maintenance activities include regular surveys, dredging, bandalling, channel marking and pilotage. In addition, terminal facilities are provided at some locations.

(b) The IWAI have formulated a detailed Action Plan for development of Inland Waterways in the country for implementation on short term (during 8th Five Year plan period) and long term (beyond 8th Five Year Plan) basis. Under the short term action plan, it is proposed to develop the National Waterways No. 1 and 2 for a navigable channel with 2.00 mtrs. depth. Both these waterways are targetted to remain open for IWT for at least 300 days a year. In Waterway No. 3, under short term action plan, the waterway is planned for a navigable depth of 2.00 meters. It is also planned to provide necessary infrastructural facilities like terminals, navigational aids, bank protection etc. Under the long term action plan, it is proposed to develop the existing wateways No. 1 and 2 for navigation of larger vessels by providing 3 meters depth and larger channel width and to provide mechanised terminals and night navigational facilities based on cargo offering. Similarly, in National Waterway No. 3, it is proposed to depend the channel further in the entire National Waterway with night navigational facilities and mechanised terminals.

भारतीय दूतावासों में हिंदी अधिकारी

35. **श्री अजीत जोगी:** क्या विदेश मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) गत एक वर्ष के दौरान किन-किन भारतीय दूतावासों में हिन्दी अधिकारियों के पदों का सृजन किया गया है;

(ख) किन-किन दूतावासों में कितने-कितने पद पहले से ही विद्यमान हैं तथा उन भारतीय दूतावासों के नाम क्या है, जहां सरकारी काम हिन्दी में किया जाता है; और